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Monday, March 14, 2005

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## Governor Proclaims March Women's History Month

Governor Jim Doyle announced today that he is proclaiming March 2005 Women's History Month. First declared by Congress in 1987, Women's History Month is held in March of each year to celebrate the contributions of women to our state, nation, and world.

"As Wisconsin's entrepreneurs, teachers, artists, scientists, mothers, daughters, and wives – women have played a vital role in Wisconsin's heritage and economic well-being," Governor Doyle said. "Their full participation is needed to succeed in building a vibrant future for the next generation of Wisconsin citizens."

Wisconsin women will have a unique opportunity to assess their progress and plan for the future. On March 22, 2005, Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton's *Wisconsin Women = Prosperity* (WW=P) initiative will host Wisconsin Women Forward! 2005, a statewide convention designed to raise the grade for Wisconsin women.

"Women's History Month reminds us of the critical ways women have shaped our world, contributions that should be recorded in every historical record," Lt. Governor Lawton said. "But that is just a first step. With Wisconsin Women Forward! 2005, we become architects of the future, designing solutions that will brighten the economic outlook for all Wisconsin citizens."

Reports on the Status of Women in Wisconsin and the efforts of organizations that advocate for women, such as WW=P and the Women's Council, show that Wisconsin women have made significant progress in social and economic equity. However, reports also show that progress is not spread equally across women in Wisconsin and that much work remains to be done to ensure all women can make their best contributions in corporate, political, and civic life.

"Women's History Month provides an opportunity each year to reflect on the critical role women play in our building our economy and strengthening our communities," said Kris Martinsek, Chair of the Wisconsin Women's Council. "It also reminds us of the importance of rededicating our efforts in identifying and removing barriers to women's full participation – ensuring that women from all walks of life can succeed and prosper."

Governor Doyle thanked the many organizations across the state that work to ensure that women prosper in Wisconsin.

Governor Doyle's 2005 Women's History Month Proclamation is available on the Wisconsin Women's Council's website at <http://womenscouncil.wi.gov>, along with information and web links to resources and events related to Women's History Month celebrations.

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For more information on the Wisconsin Women Forward! 2005 Convention, visit Wisconsin Women = Prosperity's website at <http://wisconsinwomenequalsprosperity.org>.

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